

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 04812 070556Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-05 CEA-01
/100 W

-----075874 071053Z /13

R 061350Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3153

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 4812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, YE

SUBJECT: WRAP-UP OF YEMEN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

REF: SANA 4703

SUMMARY: YEMEN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE CLOSED DECEMBER 1
WITH YARG SUCCESSFULLY PRESENTING AND DEFENDING FIVE-
YEAR PLAN. WHETHER YEMEN'S STRIDE FORWARD IN INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ARENA WAS MATCHED BY GROWTH OF OTHER ARAB'S
CONFIDENCE IN GHASHMI REGIME IS DOUBTFUL BUT AT LEAST MOST
OF THEM HAVE NOW SEEN THE HIGH CALIBER OF YEMEN'S SMALL
GROUP OF TECHNOCRATS. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANA 04812 070556Z

1. FIRST YEMEN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE CONCLUDED
DECEMBER 1 WITH SUMMARY SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER
ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-HANI WITH PRESIDENT GAHSHMI
AND THIRD COMMAND COUNCIL MEMBER, PARATROOP COMMANDER
ABD ALIM ON DAIS. PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH CONTAINED NO
SURPRISES, NOR DID EARLIER SESSIONS WHICH ATTEMPTED

TO ANALYZE FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN SOME DETAIL FOR SOCIAL AND PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS, AN EFFORT NECESSARILY HINDERED BY LACK OF TIME FOR REAL STUDY. POLITICAL TONE OF SOME OPENING DAY STATEMENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL WERE NOT REPEATED.

2. CONFERENCE WAS CARRIED OFF IN SMOOTH FASHION WHICH CLEARLY MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON ATTENDEES. TO LARGE EXTENT THIS COMPETENT PERFORMANCE WAS DUE TO ALL-NIGHT EFFORTS OF UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA STAFF IN PREPARING FINAL REPORT AND SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS, AS WELL AS DAY-TO-DAY TRANSLATION AND RE-PRODUCTION SERVICES. ECWA HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO TO ASSIST, AND ITS CONTRIBUTION CLEARLY MADE CONFERENCE MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN YEMENIS COULD HAVE ACHIEVED ON THEIR OWN. NEVERTHELESS, THE COMMENTS FROM MANY OF DELEGATES TO EMBOFFS SHOW THA THE YEMENIS WERE GIVEN CREDIT FOR A GOOD PERFORMANCE. TH ARTICULATE AND FORTHRIGHT STYLE WITH WHICH A HALF-DOZEN YARG OFFICIALS HANDLED QUESTIONS ON THE PLAN HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO DISPEL THE IMPRESSION AMONG MANY OF THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES THAT YEMEN WAS POPULATED ONLY BY YOKELS. COMMENT: DESPITE POTEMKIN VILLAGE ASPECT OF CONFERENCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES YARG SHOULD BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR ENOUGH OBJECTIVITY TO RECOGNIZE NEED FOR, AND TOMAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF, OUTSIDE HELP. IN ANY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANA 04812 070556Z

CASE IT IS THE PLAN AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF ITS PRESENTATION WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT HERE.END COMMENT.

3. SUCCESS OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN WILL DEPEND ON CONTINUED AND INCREASING INFUSIONS OF FOREIGN AID, PARTICULARLY FROM ARAB COUNTRIES ACTING ON POLITICAL MOTIVES. NO REAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF THESE COUNTRIES' REPRESENTATIVES COULD BE OBSERVED AT CONFERENCE NOR WAS IT EXPECTED. ARAB CONSERVATIVES MUST HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, BY ONE OF FEW POLITICAL INCIDENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE. DURING EXAMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF PLAN, IRAQI REPRESENTATIVE MADE RINGING CRY FOR NEED FOR "RADICAL"LAND REFORM. EDUCATION MINISTER IRYANI, CHAIRING SESSION, QUICKLY DEMOLISHED HIM, AND CLEARLY SHOWED YARG'S DETERMINATION TO PROCEED ON NON-SOCIALIST PATH, BY POINTING OUT THAT TYPICAL YEMENI FAMILY LAND-HOLDING WAS UNDER 100 HECTARES, AND IN ONLY ONE CASE WAS GREATER THAN 1000 HECTARES.

4. THE YARG DRAFTERS OF THE PLAN SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE DELGATES OF THE WISDOM OF YEMEN'S OVERALL

APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT. FACED WITH A SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER BOTH SKILLED AND UNSKILLED CAUSED BY LABOR MIGRATION, THE YARG HAS OPTED FOR A CAPITAL INTENSIVE, AND SOMEWHAT HIGH-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE. NEARLY ALL THE SPEAKERS FOR THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PLAN WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, A DETERMINED EFFORT TO HOLD DOWN INFLATION, AND A SUSTAINED BURST OF ENERGY IN CREATING NEW GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN. NO ONE WAS ABLE TO PUNCH ANY LARGE HOLES IN ANY OF THIS.

5. ON DEFICIT SIDE OF LEDGER, NEW PRESIDENT GHASHMI DID NOT MAKE PARTICULARLY GOOD IMPRESSION WITH HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANA 04812 070556Z

OPENING SPEECH, NOR WITH HIS MUTE APPEARANCE AT FIRST SESSION. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF ARAB INVESTMENT FUND TOLD EMBOFF THAT "WE" HAVE BEEN "EASY" WITH YEMEN, BUT WILL "TAKE A MUCH TOUGHER APPROACH NOW." ASKED WHY, HE SAID THERE IS YET NO REAL CONFIDENCE IN GHASHMI BY THE ARAB DONORS, AND, AT SAME TIME, THERE ARE STILL SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN HAMDI'S DEATH.

6. COMMENT: GHASHMI CLEARLY WANTED TO SHOW THAT IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL UNDER HIS REGIME, AND HE SUCCEEDED. YARG CAME OFF LOOKING GOOD, PERHAPS EVEN BETTER THAN IT DESERVES, BUT THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN IS BEYOND DISPUTE, AN IMPRESSIVE DOCUMENT. ITS WRITING AND PUBLIC PRESENTATION WERE THE EASY PARTS OF THE JOB, HOWEVER. THE REAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WORK IS JUST BEGINNING.
RANSOM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANA04812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770454-0106
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771288/aaaacwms.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f477a70a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANA 4703
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 343146
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WRAP-UP OF YEMEN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
TAGS: EAID, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f477a70a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009